

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 2, 2016

Opened Meeting: 3:10 PM.

Roll Call: Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Ann Nemrow, Sue Vachon, Burr Taylor, Paul Ciesielski, Wendy Batson, Anne Perry, Mark Eyerman, Consultant Planner and Jim Knight, guest at 4:00 PM.

Approval of 02/17/16 minutes: Deferred to next meeting.

Announcements:

New Meadows River Watershed Partnership:

The committee, comprising members from five New Meadows River communities including Harpswell, will extend its focus to include issues relating to sea level rise (SLR).

A Resident's Conservation Guide to Casco Bay:

M. Nahf informed the Commission that Brunswick is interested in producing a guide similar to Harpswell's Residents Guide, and asked about meeting to discuss our process.

Marine Resource Committee:

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that pesticides have proven to contribute, along with other environmental factors, to the detrimental health of oysters and clams.

Signage:

Signage for Little Snow Island was discussed by M. Nahf who stated that Brunswick has a supply of exterior laminated signs that might be appropriate for some islands where human and pet waste have caused problems.

Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick for Sale:

There is interest in preserving the Thomas Point mud flats of New Meadows River by Brunswick to keep it as a commercial harvesting resource. They are working with the private sector toward this partnership.

Updates:

Less Toxic Pest Controls:

M. Nahf and S. Vachon continue to work on the visual presentation for the Annual March Meeting. A poster titled "Lobster and Pesticides Don't Mix" outlines the prohibitions listed in the Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance. The Q&A pamphlet is being worked on. They note that the warm winter has sparked resident concerns about how to curb/treat tick infestations.

Little Snow Island:

D. Strachan announced that Maine Island Trail Assoc. (MITA) and Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) met to discuss human and dog waste that impacts on the water quality around Little Snow Island. They declined the suggestion to install a porta-potty and dog waste receptacles. Instead a more concerted effort at monitoring and educating recreational boaters will be exercised. (Refer to "Signage" above.)

We will have a follow-up discussion at the HCC April meeting to determine our role.

Resilience Planning for SLR:

W. Batson summarized the subcommittee's draft 5, 02/13/16. "*Planning for Sea Level Rise in Harpswell*" stating that it is a work-in-progress document that will be expanded on and refined with time.

- An index identifying all research material, including State and Federal resources, is on file.
- The use of the SLR document is to provide the backbone for future additional studies to be defined with the help of M. Eyerman; inform other associated committees and groups of the different stages as they develop, and educate the public. Next year's HCC mission statement will be prefaced on the projects outlined in the document.
- The sub-committee will present a two page summary, extracted from the 11 pages, for public and commission use, including a scientific explanation of how SLR is measured. B. Taylor stated the concept of marsh migration also requires explanation.

Power Point Format:

D. Strachan distributed a first draft to define SLR problems - When and how they occur, what the problems are, Town's role in dealing with planning and infrastructure issues, resources available from affiliated organizations, and funding options for private and public roads. M. Eyerman suggested that 3 issues should be addressed separately under the following headings:

Retrofitting - a conceptual framework for flooded private and public roads.

Proactive preventative issues - culvert replacements.

Avoidance - actions taken to ameliorate future problems.

Casco Bay Community Grant:

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) is offering \$100.00 to \$5,000.00 funds plus CBEP staff time, to communities offering innovative projects engaged in helping Casco Bay and its watershed.

- Discussion relating to the planning issues itemized in *Planning for SLR* (p4, p5) and those listed in the Grant Request ensued. Building public awareness around issues affecting the Bay most closely defined our area of interest.
- It was decided that a two-page proposal, composed by M. Nahf and W. Batson, will outline ways in which citizens can be informed of the risks and consequences of SLR. A request for \$1,500 - \$2,000, outlining expenses involved in community outreach, will be submitted together with a two-page summation of the SLR document before the March 28 deadline. M. Eyerman will oversee the request prior to requesting approval to submit by the Selectmen.

Grant Content:

- The proposal will elaborate on the effects of SLR on road inundation and marsh migration in high risk areas, as listed in the *Harpswell Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment*. The format, spawned by B. Taylor, would target each impacted areas and include a map, overlaid with the Town Assessor's maps to identify which lots are in jeopardy.

- An accompanying written statement will explain the impacts of 1',2',3' and 6' rises, web sources and suggestions for community action including the establishment of road associations.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Ordinance:

Motion: To approve the final changes to the "Waiver" (details circulated 02/19/16.)

Vote: Unanimously approved as presented.

New:

Presentation of a draft letter addressed to Town Lobstermen.

Jim Knight read an eloquent letter he composed asking approximately 250 licensed lobster fishermen and women in Harpswell for their support for the proposed changes to the Pesticide Ordinance at the Annual Town Meeting. His collection of thoughts included a brief history of the past and reasons for expanding the ordinance today, in order to protect future lobstering. The HCC heartily endorsed J. Knight's letter and thanked him for his generous offer to mail to all licensed holders.

Adjourned: 5:00 PM.

Meetings: 3/16, 4/6 and 4/20 at 3:00 PM.

Town Meeting 3/12/16 at 10:00 AM.

Scribe: Ann Nemrow